

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GOBIOID FISH
FROM TUTICORIN.

BY

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Pleurosicya annandalei new species.

Head $2\frac{1}{5}$; depth 4; D. VI-I, 8, 1; A. I, 9, 1; P. 20; V. 1, 4; 26 scales in median lateral series between suprascapula and caudal base; 9 scales transversely between soft dorsal and anal origins; 10 predorsal scales forward nearly to hind eye edge; head width $1\frac{1}{2}$ in its length; head depth at occiput $1\frac{1}{2}$; snout $2\frac{1}{2}$; eye $3\frac{7}{8}$; maxillary 2; interorbital $4\frac{1}{2}$; second dorsal spine $2\frac{1}{10}$; second dorsal ray 2; second anal ray $3\frac{1}{5}$; least depth of caudal peduncle 3; caudal fin $1\frac{3}{4}$; pectoral $1\frac{2}{5}$; length of ventral disk $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Body elongately ovoid in profile, deepest at spinous dorsal origin, well compressed, edges all convex. Caudal peduncle strongly compressed, its least depth half its length.

Head large, well depressed, convex over surface; upper profile slightly convex and little more inclined than lower; cheeks swollen moderately. Snout depressed moderately, convex over surface, broadly obtuse as seen from above, length about $\frac{7}{8}$ its width at front of eye. Eye moderate, hind edge of pupil about midway in length of head and upper edge slightly impinging on upper profile. Mouth large, moderately inclined, jaws about even. Maxillary reaches nearly opposite centre of eye. Lips thick, firm, fleshy. Teeth firmly conic, simple; uniserial in upper jaw, forward each side several enlarged slightly or canine-like, of which posterior largest; band of fine firm teeth in lower jaw, widest all around front of mandible and inside forward pair of canines, though much closer; no teeth on palate. Tongue thick, fleshy, free and emarginate in front. Nostrils well separated, simple, pore-like, close before eye; anterior falls little behind last third in snout; posterior close to front eye edge. Interorbital very slightly concave.

Gill-opening forward opposite hind eye edge, deeply incised over wide isthmus, from which free or with only narrow fold anteriorly. Gill-rakers 2 + 6 short rounded tubercles, greatly less than gill-filaments, which are about length of eye. Branchiostegals 5, with third quite divergent from fourth and fifth, these closely shielded along opercular apparatus.

Scales large, firmly adherent, in even longitudinal rows on trunk; absent from most of head, though above extend forward to each eye, leaving median triangular post-interorbital region and line of demarcation to occiput, scales not passing over; breast, pectoral base and fins naked, except slight area on caudal base; 2 median conspicuous interorbital pores, also one behind each posterior nostril with series of papillæ extending forward from each just above front nostril; two large pores behind each eye, from hind pore row of papillæ extends along upper edge of opercle; row of papillæ along front edge of opercle, with median intersecting branch backward; two close-set parallel rows of papillæ along preopercle edge, below extending along lower face of each mandibular ramus; from below front nostril row of papillæ extends down along preorbital edge and then back across cheek; scales with 14 to 17 basal radiating striæ; apical denticles 35 to 38 and circuli rather coarse.

Origin of spinous dorsal little behind that of pectoral, front spines little curved, though third spine as depressed extends back as nearly as far as last. Soft dorsal inserted about midway between hind eye edge and caudal base, front rays highest. Anal like soft dorsal, origin slightly behind that of soft dorsal. Caudal small, rounded. Pectoral large, broad, rounded. Ventral disk nearly third wider than long, rays all greatly branched and spines each with several flat cutaneous flaps in front. Vent close before anal, with slight papilla.

Colour in life pink over entire body; in alcohol faded pale brownish. Under a lens the alcohol specimen shows dull brownish dots dusted in small patch on cheeks and along side medianly. Fins all uniformly pale to whitish. Iris whitish, with greyish tinge above.

Length 34 mm.

Type, No. 51,094, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Locality. Tuticorin, India.

This interesting little fish is found commensal with the Aleyonarian *Solenocaulon tortuosum* Gray, in company with certain Alpheids and other crustaceans.* We are unaware that the commensal habit has been noted in the other species of the genus, *Pleurosicya boldinghi* Weber, obtained off Western New Guinea. The latter differs at once in the much higher soft dorsal and in the fin formulæ. Weber's examples were smaller, 22 to 31 mm. long, and were dredged at a depth of 32 meters; ours came from 14 to 16 meters, sandy bottom.

(Named after Dr. Nelson Annandale, in slight recognition of his work on Indian fishes.)

* For details of the commensalism of this fish and the associated crustaceans with *Solenocaulon*, see page 929 of this Journal.